GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2354
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
ASHA
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government hasundertaken any study to ascertain the performance of Accredited Social HealthActivists (ASHAs) under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);

(b) if so, the details thereof and theshortcomings noticed thereunder along with the corrective measures taken/being takenby the Government to remove the saidshortcomings;

(c) whether the Government has anyproposal to withdraw the scheme of ASHA;and

(d) if so, the details thereof and thereasons therefor along with the alternative arrangement proposed to be made in thisregard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a): Yes.

(b): The ASHA Programme has been evaluated through Concurrent Evaluation conducted by Indian Institute of Population Sciences in 2009 commissioned by the Ministry and the ASHA Evaluation in 8 States conducted by the ASHA Mentoring Group 2010-11. In addition, evaluation of the ASHA programme is also a part of the annual Common Review Missions (CRMs) besides being internally evaluated through biennial ASHA Updates by the National Health Systems Resource Centre. The report of the ASHA Evaluation in 8 States, CRMs and ASHA updates are available in public domain as under:
ASHA Evaluation in 8 States and ASHA Updates: http://nhsrcindia.org/index.php?option=com content&view=article&id=152&Itemid=475- CRM reports: http://nrhm.gov.in/monitoring/common-review-mission/7th-common-review-mission.html A summary of main findings of Concurrent Evaluation and Common Review Missions recommendations are annexed. The gaps identified in the evaluations are communicated to the states for corrective action. The incentives for ASHA are regularly reviewed and revised. States have also been given the flexibility to design appropriate incentives for ASHAs. A proposal for certification of ASHAs through NIOS has also been approved. Public Health being a state subject, states have also been requested to-
(i) identify ASHAs who aspire to obtain academic qualification for Class X or Class XII and to support their registration with the National Institute of Open School (NIOS)
(ii) give priority in admissions into ANM/GNM Training Schools to those ASHAs who are otherwise eligible.
(iii) put in place ASHA rest rooms and grievance redressal mechanisms for ASHAs.
(iv) Provide rest rooms in high caseload facilities.

(c): No.

(d): Does not arise in view of (c) above.